THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

April/May 2017 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

The Truth Will Set You Free

Editor's Note: A 2/9/17 Emerson College poll found 49% of registered voters trusted President Trump and his team. While recognizing that many politicians are dishonest, we find the frequency of false statements by President Trump especially alarming.

Fiction	Fact
9/26/16 During a presidential debate, Hillary Clinton said Donald Trump "thinks that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese." Mr. Trump replied, "I did not — I did not — I do not say that. "	11/6/12, Donald Trump tweeted, "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive."
11/13/16 President Trump tweeted: "The @nytimes states today that DJT[Donald J. Trump] believes 'more countries should acquire nuclear weapons.' How dishonest are they. I never said this!"	4/13/16 On *Fox News*, Candidate Trump said of Japan and North Korea, "Maybe they would be better off — including with nukes, yes, including with nukes." He repeated this statement 3 different times.
1/23/17 President Trump told Congressional leaders, "Between three million and five million illegal votes caused me to lose the popular vote."	1/28/17 "We are not aware of any evidence that supports the voter fraud claims made by President Trump...." *The National Association of Secretaries of State*
1/25/17 President Trump told ABC News, "When President Obama was [in Chicago] two weeks ago, two people were shot and killed during his speech."	1/28/17 "No one was shot and killed in Chicago on the day Obama gave his farewell speech, according to the Chicago Police Department." *The Boston Globe*
1/27/17 President Trump issued an executive order, entitled "Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the U.S.," to ban anyone from Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, Iraq, and Sudan for 90 days and all refugees for 120 days. It stated, "The unlawful employment of aliens has had a devastating impact on the wages and jobs of American workers...."	1/27/17 "No Muslim extremist from any of these places has carried out a fatal attack in the US in more than two decades." *National Public Radio* 2/1/17 "The overwhelming consensus in the economics academic literature is that immigrants add more to the economy than they take, they create more jobs for Americans...." *Alex Nowrasteh, Cato Institute*

(Continued on Page 5)

Shoveling

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

The first two months of winter,
the warmest ones in years,
most of us were happy,
save the avid skiers.

But then we had a blizzard
that dropped a ton of snow,
followed quick and forceful
by another, don't you know.

I looked outside in horror.
The snow was mighty deep.
To clear it would take hours.
Victory would not come cheap.

I shoveled and I shoveled
'til my back could bear no more,
and just when I was finished,
a plow increased my chore.

It does no good to rant and rave,
to swear and lose my cool.
This will not bring on summer,
just make me play the fool.

So, bit by bit, I cleared it,
and satisfied I felt
to see the bare dry pavement,
to watch the remnants melt.

Though it was hard, I could not fail
to revel in the task,
made easier by neighbors,
who helped without an ask.

But when the sun starts shining
some put away their shovel,
a naive act, and premature,
like refuge in a hovel.

The readiness to work hard,
when blizzards make their dump,
will strengthen us to challenge
an Obama, Bush, or Trump. Ω

Conscientious Objector

by Edna St. Vincent Millay

I shall die, but that is all
that I shall do for Death.
I hear him leading his horse
out of the stall;
I hear the clatter on the barn-floor.
He is in haste; he has business in Cuba,
business in the Balkans,
many calls to make this morning.
But I will not hold the bridle
while he cinches the girth.
And he may mount by himself:
I will not give him a leg up.

Though he flick my shoulders
with his whip,
I will not tell him which way the fox ran.
With his hoof on my breast,
I will not tell him where
the black boy hides in the swamp.
I shall die, but that is all
that I shall do for Death;
I am not on his pay-roll.

I will not tell him
the whereabout of my friends
nor of my enemies either.
Though he promise me much,
I will not map him the route
to any man's door.
Am I a spy in the land of the living,
that I should deliver men to Death?
Brother, the password and the plans
of our city
are safe with me; never through me
Shall you be overcome. Ω

A New Society

by Peter Maurin

To be radically right
is to go to the roots
by fostering a society
based on creed,
systematic unselfishness,
and gentle personalism.

To foster a society
based on creed instead of greed,
on systematic unselfishness
instead of systematic selfishness,
on gentle personalism
instead of rugged individualism,
is to create a new society
within the shell of the old. Ω

Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter!

Thomas Jefferson

America Last

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

In his Inaugural Address, President Trump said, "From this day forward, it's going to be only America first." The mantra appeals to Americans suffering economic hardship and feeling ignored, but it is a false hope. Cutting foreign aid, restricting immigration, and closing our borders to refugees will not improve the American economy— quite the opposite. Isolationism increases poverty, disease, and political instability overseas, while damaging business and academia at home. International selfishness, which will inevitably be seen as cold-hearted and racist, also increases the likelihood of terrorism and war.

On the other hand, Christ calls us to take the last place and sagely reminds us that the last shall be first. Investors, tourists, students, and talented people of all stripes are drawn to open and generous nations. Animosity towards those who put other nations first is rare, and bread cast on the waters does come back many times over.

The America First movement of the 1930's was tainted by anti-Semitism and, whether President Trump means to or not, his America First movement is tainted by anti-Islamism. The former did not make America great and neither will the latter.

Instead of putting ourselves first, we should put those with the greatest need first, no matter where they live, how they worship, or what color their skin. Ω

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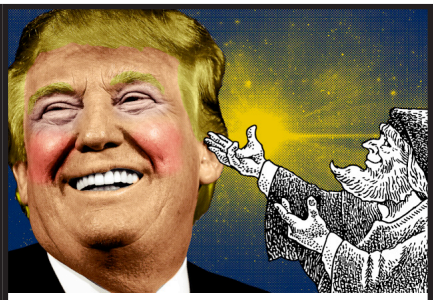
Founded in 1933 by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, the Catholic Worker is a lay movement serving the poor while denouncing injustice and proclaiming peace. We are not tax exempt. We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters to meet our expenses. We welcome volunteers, letters, poetry, articles, artwork, and donations.

An American Political Saga Unfolds!

Despite the best efforts of Democrats...



...Donald Trump won bigly and went right to work to Make America Great Again and Again.

First, he energized women!

Then, he clarified our values!

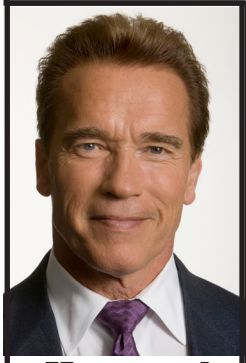
He talked tough to our Australian and Mexican enemies!

He deported bad hombres!

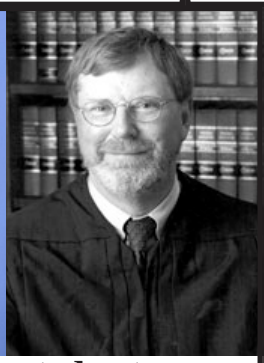
He set America's life's blood free!

He was unafraid to call a critic "disgraceful"!

He never favored campaign donors!



He prayed for Arnold!



He chided over-rated actors and so-called judges!

He boosted SNL's ratings!

What he does next is up to you!

Family Night Poetry Slam

Editor's Note: Raising children in a Catholic Worker house can be hard on a family, so in 1999, Claire and Scott initiated a practice that each Friday night would be "family night," with guests and other community members being served dinner upstairs and then a family meal downstairs, followed by an activity like playing a board game, going to a movie, star gazing, taking a hike or swim. The assumption was that family night would end when their children left home, but that has not been the case. Whenever possible, the children still come and bring their children too. On a recent family night, Scott and Claire's daughter Grace suggested that everyone write a poem for the following Friday. Here are some of those poems. Unfortunately, Claire was away and Justin deleted his poem.

Theodore

by Grace Sliwoski

Theodore, Theodore.
Every day we love you more.
But changing diapers is a chore
Dad rarely does (Mom keeps score)!

We're told this age, it quickly passes
Faster than your morning gasses
Though nighttime screaming pains our asses
We cherish it, while it lasts...es.

Loved by cousins Fran and May,
Aunt Patricia, Uncle Jay,
Grandma and Grandpa night and day
We love you, Theo! they all say.

We give you kisses and squeeze you tight
If something's wrong, we'll make it right
And as you grow from just a mite
We'll bring you here to family night. Ω

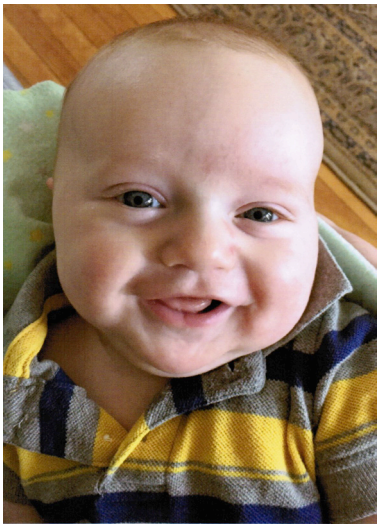
Poem 1

by Anthony Sliwoski

Theodore,
we adore.
He's a chore,
not a bore.
On the floor?
By the shore?
Cry some more,
Theodore <3 Ω

Poem 2

There once was a boy named Theo,
whose cries could be heard from Rio.
He never would stop,
and he'd frequently plop,
as well as present us with pee-o. Ω



Theodore Sliwoski

Kids

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

Adults are boring, most of the time,
they fret and fuss and gripe.
This and that, to them's a crime.
They're victims of rumor and hype.

But kids are different, totally free.
They say and do what they will.
With eyes wide open, they really see
what's treasure and what is swill.

I like their candor, I like their spunk,
I like the sparkle in their eyes,
totally honest, not a speck of bunk,
themselves without disguise.

There's Scotti May and Frances Jean,
and Theodore, the beaver.
Despite their size, their wits are keen,
they make me a believer

that what is vital, deep, and true,
what will give us holy mirth,
comes not with years and all we do,
but is there for all at birth. Ω

May Kathryn Duffy

for may

by Patricia Kirkpatrick

My one, my only may kathryn duffy
how is it you make my heart feel so fluffy
and soft, like a pair of wool mittens
or tiny newborn kittens

i imagine it's to do with your strength of spirit
the way you speak out for all to hear it
the miracle of your fingers and toes
your rosebud lips and button nose

if ever i wondered why i am here
your being born made it all very clear
the reason i see could be no other
than to feel the joy of being your mother.

for francie pants

There once was a baby named fran
she spread smiles across the land
with each beat of her heart
love did she impart
'pon ev'ry child, woman, and man. Ω

Frances Jean Duffy

(Continued from Page 1)

Fiction	Fact
2/5/17 After a federal judge's blocked his executive order, President Trump said, "The opinion of this so-called judge... is ridiculous and will be overturned!"	US District Court Judge James Robart is an actual judge appointed by President George W. Bush. His decision was upheld unanimously by the appeals court.
2/5/17 President Trump tweeted, "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!"	2/7/17 "Contrary to Mr. Trump's claim, no one is 'pouring in' to America. Refugees and other immigrants already undergo a thorough, multi-layered vetting process that can take up to two years." *NY Times*
2/7/17 President Trump accused the press of ignoring terrorist attacks, "All over Europe, it's happening. It's gotten to the point where it's not even being reported, and in many cases, the very dishonest press doesn't want to report it." When asked to provide material evidence to back up this claim, The White House released a list of 78 attacks it said "did not receive adequate attention from Western media sources."	2/8/17 "The president's assertion is false. The White House knows that it was false or could have learned that it was false with a quick Google check, but did not do so or decided not to tell the truth." *Fox News anchor Shep Smith* 2/9/17 "terrorist attacks... are, in fact, some of the most well-reported stories of our times. The total number of media hits for the 78 terrorist attacks is 80,878." *Peter Bergen CNN*
2/7/17 President Trump said once again, "The murder rate in our country is the highest it's been in 45-47 years."	2/8/17 The current murder rate is actually the second lowest in the past 25 years. *Politifact*
2/9/17 President Trump said that he would have won in New Hampshire if not for the "thousands" of people who were "brought in on buses" from Massachusetts to vote "illegally."	*2/12/17"*...allegations of voter fraud in NH are baseless, without any merit—it's shameful to spread these fantasies." *Republican Thomas Rath, former NH Attorney General*
2/16/17 President Trump said his "was the biggest Electoral College win since Ronald Reagan."	*2/17/17* Trump had 306 votes, Obama had 332 & 365, Clinton had 370 & 379, and the first President Bush had 426. *NY Times*
2/24/17 President Trump told conservative activists, "We've defended other nations' borders while leaving ours wide open — anybody can come in."	*2/27/17* "Presidents George W. Bush and Obama roughly doubled the ranks of the Border Patrol in the past decade or so." *Associated Press*
3/1/17 President Trump told a joint session of the US Congress that our NATO allies "must meet their financial obligations. And now, based on our very strong and frank discussions, they are beginning to do that. In fact, I can tell you the money is pouring in. Very nice." President Trump also told Congress, "According to the National Academy of Sciences, our current immigration system costs American taxpayers many billions of dollars a year."	3/2/17 "No new money has come pouring in from NATO allies. Defense Secretary Mattis made a strong case before NATO defense ministers last month, pressing them to fulfill their 2014 commitment to spend 2% of their GDP on defense by 2024...and there was some discussion about working out plans to meet the goal." *Associated Press* Immigrants "contribute to government finances by paying taxes and add expenditures by consuming public services." Immigrants' children "are among the strongest economic and fiscal contributors in the population." *National Academy of Sciences*

On Lies &Truth

by Patricia McGuire

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from a statement by the President of Trinity Washington University, a Catholic college founded in 1897, from which Presidential Counselor Kellyanne Conway, graduated. The university's motto is: "Knowledge is the handmaid of the faithful."

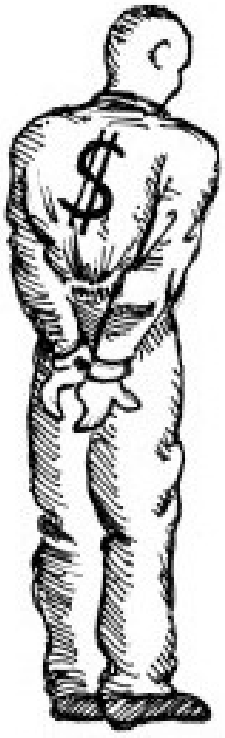
Some people admire Kellyanne Conway's staunch advocacy for her client's positions, and others applaud the fact that she was the first woman to manage a successful presidential campaign. But in fact, as is true of many of President Trump's statements, her advocacy on his behalf is often at variance with the truth.

Ms. Conway invented the now-infamous phrase "alternative facts" to defend Trump's claims about the size of crowds at his inauguration, a thinly-veiled autocratic scheme to try to claim that the Trump inauguration drew the biggest crowd in history when, in fact, it was on the smaller side. Ms. Conway has been part of a team that thinks nothing of shaping and spreading a skein of lies as a means to secure power. Perhaps the "Bowling Green Massacre" comment was truly a mistake, as she claims, but she repeated that canard on three different occasions as an explanation for why the travel ban, an executive order that clearly discriminates against Muslims, was necessary....

People can agree or disagree around national policy or domestic policy. You can have a raging debate about Obamacare … But when you lie so consistently as this administration does, that's a moral issue. We are teachers. We have an honor system here. We believe deeply in upholding the value of truth.… It's urgent not to be shy about it. Ω

Injustice Behind Bars

American private prisons currently hold 21,000 inmates. The profitability of these prisons relies on spending less on an ever-growing population, so these corporations lobby vigorously against sentencing reform and alternatives to incarceration. They contributed $225,000 to a super-pac that helped elect Donald Trump and donated another $250,000 for his inaugural festivities. Following the August 2016 announcement by President Obama that the use of private prisons would be phased out, their stock dipped to $19.51 per share. It rose dramatically when Trump was elected and reached $47.75 on February 22 after Attorney General Jeff Sessions reversed Obama's directive. Six days later, Sessions announced that the Justice Department would "pull back" from investigating civil rights and other abuses by local police departments. In another blow to inmates, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission Ajit Pai announced in January that the FCC would no longer challenge exorbitant phone charges for inmates, which can be as high as $14 a minute.



Jeff Collins

The US spends six times more money on prisons than education, and incarcerates five times more inmates than the world average. Fyodor Dostoevsky said, "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." The Letter to the Hebrews (13:3) says: "**Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering**."

For more information on how you can help go to: *www.prisonactivist.org/resources/nationwide-organizations-and-resources*. Ω

Letter to *The New York Times* (3/1/17)

With shocking ignorance President Trump exclaimed, "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated."

Here are some Trump exclamations to come:

"Nobody knew that immigrants contributed to the economy!"
"Nobody knew that a multibillion-dollar wall would be useless!"
"Nobody knew that environmental programs improve Americans' health!"
"Nobody knew that Islam is a religion, not an enemy army!"
"Nobody knew that tax cuts for the rich lower Americans' income!"
"Nobody knew that overspending on the military won't make us safe!"
"Nobody knew that the press is vital to democracy!"
"Nobody knew that governing, not just winning an election, is what counts!"

Kathleen Goforth

THE TRILLION-DOLLAR SACRED BULL IN THE ROOM

Shameful Fact

President Trump's request for $638 billion in military spending is $71 billion larger than the *combined* military budgets of the next largest military spenders: China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Britain, India, France, and Japan. Ω

Letters

Dear Friends:

Thanks for the February/March *CR*. I especially appreciated Claire's "Mason Street Musings" and Katie Kelso's reflection on guns. Katie's last line bears repeating: " . . . never once has there been a time when I said to myself, `You know what would help this situation? A gun.'"

Jerry Lembcke
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Scott,

Thank you for the Feb/Mar *Catholic Radical*. As I mentioned, years ago, it is one of the best CW publications.

Pope Francis continues to be a charismatic prophet. He is indifferent to nothing in our Catholic Faith. His fresh appraisal of things Catholic fulfills Peter Maurin's definition of "blowing the dynamite of the Church," and he is not, definitely not, playing a waiting game. As Catholic Worker peacemakers, we hope he will add doctrinal emphasis to his use of the term "inviolable" right to life of the criminal, of any and all human beings.

Your article about Israel does not do justice to the hopeless situation of the five million Jews living in that country. What the world refuses countenance is that peace in Israel is dependent on the will of the one billion people of world Islam.

Who is arming the Palestinians? Who callously uses them in a proxy war? Who, by militarizing Palestinians, does everything they can to forestall a two-state solution?

Israel is not now, nor will be, nor has ever been a viable state. Israel has from the beginning been used by the Western powers for their strategic goals in the Middle-East.

World opinion has never had any love for the Jews and now fastens on Israeli aggression and oppression to hold them up for moral repudiation and contempt. The US, by militarizing Israel, seals

their fate; a fate many times worse than their oppression of the Palestinians. The unthinkable could happen if nuclear equilibrium is achieved between Iran or any hostile Islamic state and Israel.

Criticize Israel, yes, but never forsake the Chosen People.

Why, I wonder, does so much of the Catholic Worker suffer angst over Democrats vs. Republicans? Aren't we Christian anarchists? Isn't our homeland amongst the people of God? The people, whom the prophets of Israel and the Fathers of the Church instruct about a new Kingdom that is already but not yet?

...[we must] evaluate the source of modernistic ideologies. ...What intersection is possible with social arrangements that Catholics and other Christians can't approve?...[we must ask] how to live with moral coherency and how to honor the unity and sanctity of life in our moral decision making. This kind of teaching is not welcome news by the left or the right....

There should have been an editor's note to correct Mr. Thornton's assertion that [in the 60's, the Church taught] "abortion to save the life of the mother is allowable." *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* states in 2271, "Since the first Century, the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."...

Peter King
Hesed House
Syracuse, New York

Editor's Note: On February 22, 2017, The New York Times *reported, "Since the start of the year, 53 Jewish community centers around the country have received bomb threats.... Nearly 200 Jewish graves were vandalized at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery outside Saint Louis."* The Boston Globe *reported 11 Jewish community centers were threatened on February 20th alone. This surge in anti-Semitism demands strong condemnation, but, it is our belief, that it owes its rise, along with the rise in Islamaphobia, to right-wing, nativist Christians, rather than human rights critics of Israeli policy. We believe, as many Jews do, that just treatment of non-Jews is at the very heart of the Jewish faith and is the means to end division and violence in Israel/Palestine.*

As Catholic Workers, we eschew partisan politics and embrace Christian personalism, a grassroots activism based on example rather than legislation to the promote the works of mercy and social justice. Nonetheless, we object to policies by politicians of any stripe, which endanger the poor, the immigrant, the unborn, the infirm, and the environment.

It is our understanding that the Catholic Church's view on abortion progressed as medical understanding grew. For centuries, the Church believed that a unborn child's soul was not present in the early days of pregnancy. Penance for an early abortion was less than the penance imposed after the soul was infused. In the past century, the Church has insisted ever more forcefully that a full human being is present from the moment of conception.

It is important to note that the 1967 edition of The New Catholic Encyclopedia *said:*

> *The Church bans abortions which "directly" cause the death of a fetus. However, there are certain medical procedures that a pregnant woman can undergo which, indirectly, result in the death of the embryo or fetus. Under some circumstances, the Church regards these as a moral choice. These involve an ethical principle called "double effect." This is where an action that is directly undertaken for a moral reason has an unintended, unavoidable, second, indirect, and negative, effect.*

The two most common examples given were ectopic pregnancy and uterine cancer. In both cases, the intent of treatment is to prevent the death of the mother, not to kill the unborn child, although that is the result. It is not unreasonable to describe this as "abortion to save the life of the mother." Inaction in such circumstances, leads to the deaths of both the mother and child.

In the February/March issue of *The Catholic Radical,* a photo appeared on page six without attribution. That photo was taken by Ed Hedemann. We make every effort to credit artists, photographers, and authors, but are not always able to do so. Assistance from our readers is always appreciated.

Catholic Worker Calendar

April 11 & 26, May 10 & 24 — Evening Prayer: Join us in prayer and Taize chant at 7:30 P.M.. 52 Mason Street. Followed by refreshments.

April 14 — Stations of the Cross: Join us for a contemporary take on the tradition of recalling Jesus' suffering. Noon- 1:30, 52 Mason Street. Followed by soup and bread.

April 1 & May 20 — Vigil to Reverse the Gun Culture: Join us at the The Gun Parlor shooting range. 12:30-1:30 P.M., 170 Prescott Street, Worcester.

April 22 — March for Science: *Out of the Labs & Into the Street*: Join us on Earth Day, as part of a national campaign to defend sound scientific research, especially on climate change. Gather at Institute Park on Salisbury Street in Worcester and march to Elm Park and back. 11 A.M. - Noon. Come early, the march leaves promptly. For more information: theresecw2@gmail.com.

Mason Street Musings

A cheerful crew of workers spent this morning putting twelve solar panels on our roof. In several weeks, after the permitting is completed and a new meter is installed by the electric company, they will begin generating more than half of our power. Over twenty years, our solar panels will avoid the emissions from burning 65.5 tons of coal and save us up to $10,000 in electric bills.

This was made possible by donations from many of you. Dozens of solar companies will put panels on your roof with no money down and a 20-year lease with monthly payments that rise 2-2.9% annually. Such arrangements benefit the environment immediately and do save homeowner's money, but, as Catholic Workers, we oppose the charging of interest on loans. Thankfully, one company, SolarCity, was willing to sign a 20-year lease with no payments for a flat fee of $6,450, which saves us significantly more money over time.

When Claire looked out our window and saw a growing pile of cardboard boxes from which the workers were removing solar panels, she went out to ask them if they planned to recycle the waste. A worker replied, "Oh, yes. We sort everything. We're a very green company."

Minutes after the workers left, I read in *The New York Times* that Donald Trump intends a "historic" increase in military spending to be offset in large part by tens of billions of dollars in cuts from the Environmental Protection Agency and foreign aid. Then I read a *Boston Globe* editorial by Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, which concluded: "Trump's anti-environmental populism—destroying the Earth's natural capital for a trickle of gains today—is perhaps the most insidious and irreversible of all his populist ploys.... Who will speak up for the Earth? Who will speak up for our children and grandchildren who would inherit a degraded planet? That will have to be the job for all of us."

Well, refusing plastic and paper bags at the grocery store, recycling or composting more than half our waste, using mass transportation, a hybrid or electric vehicle, etc.... might seem ephemeral responses, but the cumulative actions of millions translate into a revolution that no politician can turn back. Feel free to contact us about going solar and to advise us with your own green initiatives. Claire and I now have three beautiful grandchildren. It's unthinkable to leave them a planet that Pope Francis warns is fast becoming "a garbage dump."

Thankfully, three Massachusetts legislators have introduced a bill that would commit the state to obtain 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050. California and New York have already set renewable goals of 50% by 2030. Vermont has a goal of 75% by 2032. The City of Worcester is installing the largest solar farm in the state on top of its municipal landfill to power half of the city's electric needs. Public schools now have solar panels. Churches, synagogues, and mosques are beginning to follow suit. Grassroots activists, religious stewards of God's creation, and economic realists are the engineers driving this train. Fossil fuelaholics can slow it, but cannot stop it now.

We used to spend Earth Day on a neighborhood clean-up, which often meant collecting mountains of debris to be hauled away, rather than challenging the consumerism that created the trash in the first place. Why not spend April 22nd, the seventh day of Easter, reflecting on our consumption and actually reducing it, not just on that day, but for the rest of our lives? This is a gift we can give to our children and their children too. Ω **Scott**

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